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Review of Education in Parapsychology: Student and Instructor Perspectives
by Harvey J Irwin
AIPR Monograph No. 2 (2013)
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Harvey Irwin has had over 30 years of involvement in both teaching and researching parapsychology within a university setting. In this monograph he offers, with much modesty, advice for students and instructors based on his valuable experience in the field. It feels like a parting gift, as he states in the Preface: "as I near the end of my own career in parapsychology it is timely that I proffer to others the benefit of my considered experience to use or not to use as they wish" (p. viii). The monograph consists of two parts, the first directed towards prospective students of parapsychology, and the second towards prospective instructors. While these may seem like two distinct audiences, as Irwin notes there is much for the student to gain from considering the perspective taken by an instructor as he or she plans a course in parapsychology, and speaking from my own experience as an educator in this field, I am confident that from now on I will be recommending this book to every prospective student who approaches me.

In the first part of the monograph, Irwin pulls no punches in addressing misconceptions about parapsychology, motives for studying parapsychology, practicalities and benefits of studying this topic. He gives a frank and realistic appraisal of what it means to study parapsychology, and provides wise advice on how to do so whilst minimizing the risk of damaging one's future career prospects. In addition to advice to educators on designing a parapsychology course, part two gives practical advice based on the (not unreasonable) assumption that the prospective instructor is situated within an academic environment that may be hesitant or even openly hostile to the idea of teaching students about such a controversial topic.

In sum, I think this monograph will be of great value to readers who wish to become actively involved in learning or teaching parapsychology. It is succinctly written, but packed full of treasures. Fittingly, Irwin dedicates the book to his students, from whom he has learned so much about the fascination of parapsychology.

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